

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated June 27, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. The application is believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 3-10 and 12-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by www.erieri.com (ERI reference). As discussed below, the claims are patentable over the ERI reference.

Independent claim 3 is directed to a method of providing compensation information over a communication network. The method includes prompting the user to select job comparison information, receiving, over the communication network, a selection by the user of comparison information, retrieving, from the database containing compensation information associated with jobs, desired comparison compensation information corresponding to the selection by the user of the comparison information, and transmitting the desired comparison compensation information to the user over the communication network in addition to the desired compensation information in a format for comparing the desired compensation information and the desired comparison compensation information.

The ERI reference discusses research software and research reports on area wage and salary differentials. The ERI software allows users to receive salary information regarding selected jobs.

The ERI reference, however, fails to teach or disclose prompting the user to select job comparison information, and receiving, over the communication network, a selection by the user of comparison information. Nor does the ERI reference disclose retrieving, from the database containing compensation information associated with jobs, desired comparison compensation information corresponding to the selection by the user of the comparison information, and transmitting the desired comparison compensation information to the user over the communication network in addition to the desired compensation information in a format for comparing the desired compensation information and the desired comparison compensation information, as is recited in claim 3. Information found on page 54 of the ERI reference mentions a comparables report for Executives and for Nonprofit Executives to determine the highest paying jobs within an organization or across organization; however, the comparables report does not address retrieving desired comparison compensation information and desired compensation information for presentation to the user for comparison purposes. For at least

these reasons, claim 3 is patentable over the ERI reference. Claims 4-10 and 12-13 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 3 and are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 3 is patentable.

Independent claim 14 is directed to a system for providing compensation information. The system includes an interface module configured to provide the compensation information from the compensation module to the network for the user and configured to provide a job opportunities link that is selectable by the user to connect the user via the communication network to information relating to at least one opportunity for a job corresponding to the selected job data.

The ERI reference does not teach or disclose a job opportunities link being selectable by the user to be connected via the communication network to information relating to at least one opportunity for a job corresponding to the selected job category, as recited in claim 14. Page 54 of the ERI reference includes a bullet point directed to Job Search Report; however, the ERI reference Job Search Report does not provide a job opportunities link being selectable by the user to be connected via a communication network to information relating to at least one opportunity for a job corresponding to the selected job category in a particular geographic area. The ERI reference discusses a stand alone software application in March 2000, and there is no indication that the ERI software is to be used with a network. For at least these reasons, claim 14 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 15-26 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 14 and are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 14 is patentable.

Independent claim 27 is directed to a method of providing compensation information over a packet-switched communication network. The method includes prompting, over the communication network, the user to select a link to retrieve job opportunities, and transmitting, over the communication network to the user, an indication of a link to a job opportunity, the link being selectable by the user to be connected via the communication network to information relating to at least one opportunity for a job corresponding to the selected job category.

As discussed above with respect to claim 14, the ERI reference fails to teach or disclose prompting, over the communication network, the user to select a link to retrieve job opportunities, and transmitting, over the communication network to the user, indicia of links to job opportunities, the links being selectable by the user to be connected via the communication network to information relating to at least one opportunity for a job corresponding to the selected

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job category, as is recited in claim 27. For at least these reasons, claim 27 is patentable. Claims 28-33 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 27 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons that claim 27 is patentable.

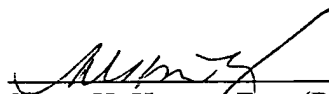
Claims 13 and 34-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ERI reference in view of www.careerbuilder.com (the careerbuilder reference). As discussed below, the claims are patentable over the ERI reference in view of careerbuilder.

The careerbuilder reference discusses a system for accessing information on careers. The careerbuilder reference includes a tab for a user to select to search for a job. By entering particular parameters, the user is presented with job offerings.

The careerbuilder reference, however, fails to overcome the deficiencies of the ERI reference discussed above with respect to claims 3, 14, and 27. Claims 13, 34 and 37 depend, directly or indirectly from one of claims 3, 14 and 27, and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claims from which they depend.

Applicants believe this application to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. To answer any questions, or otherwise further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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